

the Director
Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

1 0 AUG 1977

Dear Tom,

Thanks for your little note and enclosed statement. I enjoyed an update on what you are doing in this area.

The Intelligence Community and CIA are indeed concerned about the issue of standardization. The Directorate of Intelligence now is in the process of defining two related topics for long-term study: The Problem of Europe as a Military, Political, and Economic Partner, and International Arms Transfer Issues. Although the definition of issues still is in an early stage, our findings so far indicate, as you acknowledge, there are serious difficulties involved in realizing a comprehensive program of NATO cooperation in arms production. Moreover, analysis of these issues is especially challenging and difficult for US intelligence because they not only involve initiatives taken within non-US NATO countries but also, perhaps more importantly, they hinge on policies developed within the US Congress and Departments of State and Defense.

We frankly see a long road ahead for our studies due to the complexity of the issues and pressure of other intelligence priorities. But we also expect to make steady progress in the months to come.

It was good to see you at the Italian Embassy. All the best.

Yours,

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